

From: Milnes
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 4:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to voice my displeasure with the performance of the U.S. Dept. of Justice in its case against Microsoft. I cant imagine that you would let Microsoft supply "low income schools" with computers with they're operating system and software installed on it. As a parent of two I am unhappy with our local school districts decision to use Microsoft products exclusively. No doubt their decision was based in large part by Bill Gate's grants (bribes) to help purchase the software in the first place. It now forces me, as a parent to go out and purchase Microsoft products for my computers at home so that my kid's homework will be compatible with "Microsoft Word 2000" format. Also the school district has to expend a considerable amount of resources to keep all the licenses up to date on there thousands of machines.

As you can see, "giving" low income schools "Microsoft products" will result in more financial hardship as the schools will have to pay licensing fees to Microsoft to keep the systems current and the parents in these schools will be compelled to bye Microsoft products for the home. Not much of a punishment for a company accused of running a monopoly. This will just ensure more future customers.

The best alternative I have heard so far is the one proposed by RedHat inc., maker of an open source operating system. Let Microsoft spend all there fines in buying just the hardware for the schools and take Red Hat up on there offer of providing, free of charge (including future updates) the operating system and technical support for these "low income schools".

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